

UNIVERSITY SENATE

A meeting of the University Senate was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 November 2014, in Maxwell Auditorium.

Present were: Senators Abramovsky, Alston, Armstrong, Bartolovich, Brown (H), Bulman, Burak, Burnette, Burstyn, Campagna, Carter, Coggiola, D'Amico, Davis (L), Davis (S), Day, Dolak, Dong, El-Amir, Elin, Endreny, Erdman, Ferguson, Franklin, Garcia-Reidy, Gauri, Gitner, Godfrey, Gorovitz, Gouldin, Hagenloh, Harding, Hartman, Hinchman, Hollenback, Holzwarth, Hoover, Ingram, Isik, Juarez, Kallander (A), Kiewe, Ledford, Leitermann, Lim, Lore, Lutz, MacNamara, Marrero, Mohanty, Moseson, Mosher, Mulvaey, Murphy, neary, Negussey, O'Rourke, Osborne, Padgett, Pellow, Perreault, Raina, Reed, Rolling, Rubinstein, Rupert, Ryan, Schell, Sedore, Sherman, Smith (C), Spina, Staniec, Stanton, Teres, Thompson, Tucker, Van Gulick, Van Hollen, Venable, Vidali, Wadley, Watts, Winders, Wysocki, Yaman.

Presiding officer: Prof. Doug Armstrong

The Chairman called the meeting to order, proposed that the minutes of the October 8th meeting be approved as written, and the body concurred. He called Prof. Kathy Hinchman to the podium to read a memorial statement, written by Prof. Barbara Applebaum, as follows:

Professor Emerita Sari Knopp Biklen, Laura and Douglas Meredith Professor in Teaching Excellence, Director of the Institute of Popular Culture, Media Literacy and Education at Syracuse University and twice appointed chair of Cultural Foundations, passed away on the afternoon of September 16.

Born in 1945, Prof. Biklen was her mother's daughter. Her mother, Fay Honey Knopp, was a feminist pacifist, prison abolitionist and a pioneer for sexual abuse prevention whose sense of independence was remarkable for a woman of her time. Prof. Biklen brought that same commitment to social justice to her work at Syracuse University and became a powerful voice in support of equity both on our campus and in her field.

Prof. Biklen was a pioneer for social justice and fearlessly dared to act. In 1971, she was hired to teach at the Martin Luther King School here in Syracuse. In December of that year Prof. Biklen legally challenged that part of the Education Law which required teachers to take an oath of allegiance to the federal and state constitutions. Prof. Biklen's case, however, was dismissed - William O. Douglas was the only Supreme Court Justice who wanted to hear her case. Nevertheless, in later years the New York loyalty statue was declared unconstitutional because it violated the First Amendment and attempted to prescribe what a teacher can say casting a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom. A groundbreaking pioneer, Prof. Biklen's commitments to social justice was ahead of her time in so many ways.

In 1992, when the National Society for the Study of Education approached Prof. Biklen to be the editor of *Gender and Education*, she took the initiative to request that Diane Pollard be co-editor so that women of color would be included and represented as authors in the volume. Prof. Biklen also initially declined an invitation to be the editor for a section of the new edition of the *Handbook of Sex Equity in Education* because there were no women of color who were section editors. She recommended that a Black woman be one of the section editors and her suggestion was accepted.

Her activism informed her scholarship and her scholarship informed her activism. As a national leader and a respected scholar in the area of gender and education, Prof. Biklen's earliest works involved editing three influential volumes in this area: *Women and Educational Leadership* (co-edited with Marilyn Brannigan, 1980), *Changing Education: Women as Radicals and Conservators* (co-edited with Joyce Antler, 1990) and *Gender and Education* (National Society for the Study of Education, co-edited with Diane Pollard, 1993).

Sari Knopp Biklen, cont'd

Her 1995 book, *School Work: Gender and the Cultural Construction of Teaching*, a study of the challenges that female, elementary school teachers face, was groundbreaking in that it focused on these women's own stories as told in their own voices. By contrasting different historical moments and employing qualitative methods, Prof. Biklen demonstrated how "teacher work" is socially constructed and how historical discourses of schooling influence the complex meanings actual teachers develop about what it means to work as teachers in schools. In 1996, *School Works* won the Critics' Choice Award from the American Educational Studies Association.

Prof. Biklen was equally a leader in the field of qualitative methods. Her *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*, co-authored with Prof. Robert Bogdan, is now in its 5th edition and translated into numerous languages.

Her accomplishments earned her numerous national and University accolades among which are the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Scholarship (2009), Syracuse University Outstanding Teacher Award (1996), and the Willystine Goodsell Award for scholarship and practice in gender and education from the American Educational Research Association (1988). Prof. Biklen's extraordinary contributions to the field of gender and education, pop culture and qualitative methods brought distinction to Syracuse University.

Prof. Biklen served on the Senate from 1989-2012. She was a member of the Committee on Academic Freedom (1989-92, 1995-99 when she also chaired the committee, and 2005-11), the Committee on Academic Affairs (2004-5) and the Committee on Appointment and Promotion (2003-4).

She was revered as a teacher, mentor and advisor. Upon hearing of her passing, the outpouring of love and sadness (one needs only look at the Facebook postings) is evidence of all the people she has touched. In the many emails that I have received, Prof. Biklen's students recall the positive role Sari played not only in their academic but also their personal lives.

She is survived by her partner in life, Dean Emeritus Doug Biklen (School of Education), their children Noah and Molly, their partners Naomi and Jason respectively, and two granddaughters, Anika and Nora. Her family and grandchildren gave her great joy.

Prof. Biklen challenged us and she was not afraid to be an instigator in the name of justice. She was willing to stand by her convictions even when there were personal consequences for her doing so. She was someone with an enormous ability to care. Prof. Biklen will be remembered for her vision, her compassion and her courage.

Prof. Armstrong asked for a moment of silent tribute, then made a motion that the remarks made be included in the record. The body concurred. Armstrong continued his report with a motion to approve the appointment of the following non-senators to chair Senate committees and also be recognized and permitted to speak at Senate meetings when committee reports were presented: Natasha Cooper (Academic Affairs, co-chair), Bron Adam (Services to the Faculty and Staff, co-chair), and the motion carried.

Prof. Armstrong called Prof. Mitch Franklin to present the report of the Curriculum committee in the absence of the chair. Prof. Franklin proposed a motion that the Senate approve the new courses and programs, and other changes (Engineering and Computer Science, Sport & Human Dynamics, Public Communications, Arts and Sciences) listed in the report. The motion carried.

Prof. Armstrong called Prof. Mark Rupert and Prof. Margaret Thompson to present a resolution calling for Senate affirmation of academic freedom and faculty governance at the University of Illinois, where the contract of Prof. Steven Salaita, a recently-hired faculty member, had been revoked without due process in view of statements he made as a private citizen which the University administration deemed "uncivil". Prof. Rupert told the body that

the action of the University of Illinois administration opened the door to a dangerous precedent (revoking a contract without showing by due process that a faculty member was 'unfit') and raised the question of who was qualified to decide who is hired. He made a motion that the Syracuse University Senate concur in the resolution.

In the discussion, a member questioned the germaneness of the resolution, and proposed a motion to amend, adding "...this motion in no way endorses any views expressed by Prof. Salaita or the manner in which he expressed them." The motion was seconded. A member rose to say that he thought it was not enough just to say that we did not endorse the content, but rather endorsed his right to say it, that the amendment did not go far enough. Another member said that Salaita's comments on Twitter were hate speech. Another member pointed out that S.U. was part of a larger group, that extended nationwide, that it was due process that was being affirmed. After further discussion, a member proposed a motion to refer the motion back to the makers to be reworked and clarified. The motion to refer carried.

Prof. Armstrong then called Prof. Robert Rubinstein to present the report of the Committee on Appointment and Promotions. Prof. Rubinstein began by thanking Prof. Craig Dudczak for drafting the report, and the rest of the committee for its quick response to the draft. Rubinstein highlighted the report, listing the Committee's main responsibilities, as follows:

- 1-approval of each college's/school's promotion procedures—initially as well as after any substantive modification;
- 2-review of the procedures for expedited promotion to full professor;
- 3-ensuring that the procedures now in place were consistent across colleges/schools and the University as well as reflecting best practices;
- 4-overseeing promotion procedures across the University; promotion appeals;
- 5-appeal of adverse tenure decisions (now tied to promotion to associate).

He expressed concern that to date the committee had received no revised school or college procedures, per the committee's responsibility to review revised procedures making sure that they conformed to the new policy, and also that the Office of Academic Affairs had established no deadline by which time procedures should be received by the Senate committee. He said that failure of colleges/schools to follow the new procedures, including approval of school/college procedures greatly increased the likelihood of grievances being filed on procedural grounds. Rubinstein ended by referring to four recommendations from the committee:

- 1-that for this year only the Office of Academic Affairs consider procedures to comply with the intent of the Trustees's decision as long as they met the procedures that were in place in the respective college/school at the time their promotion review began in 2014;

2-that the task force stipulated by the Board of Trustees (item 6) to work with the Vice Chancellor to develop a proposal for modifying the tenure process should include current and recent members of the Committee on Appointment and Promotions;

3-that once instituted, the University-level Review and Advisory Committee "comprised of faculty who will meet with the Provost on all tenure and promotion cases and make recommendations" should include the chair of the Senate Committee on Appointment and Promotions to ensure that college/school and University procedures were followed in promotion decisions;

4-that in accordance with the Board of Trustees request (item 8), that the Office of Academic Affairs work with the committee on Appointment and Promotions to ensure that processes were in place in each college/school that were consistent across the University to reflect best University practices and the changes the Board had instituted, we urge the Vice Chancellor to commence discussion with the Committee.

In the discussion, several questions were raised including:

-that it was not clear whether we were talking about promotion or tenure, and that the wording of the responsibility for promotion to Associate or Full, which used to lodge with the faculty and now was the Vice Chancellor's, should be made clear;

-a member raised the question of the status of the Vice Chancellor's task force to work on promotion matters;

A member rose to make a motion that the Senate endorse the four recommendations of the Committee on Appointment and Promotions. The motion was seconded. In the discussion, senators raised issues of: no broad discussion of the new promotion process, the new policy having been implemented in a rush without considering the faculty role in it; faculty power and responsibility having been taken away by the changes brought about by the Board of Trustees. The motion carried.

The Chairman called Prof. Jeff Stanton who presented a report of the activities of the Administrative Operations committee, which also included their committee agenda for the rest of the year. There was no discussion.

Prof. Armstrong then called on Prof. Francine D'Amico to present the report of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Concerns, which included a motion to endorse a resolution calling for support of LGBTQ members of the University. (Full report was distributed to the members and is on file in the Senate office.) The motion carried.

Under New Business, the Chairman recognized Prof. Bruce Carter who proposed a motion, as follows:

While respecting the authority of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees, the Syracuse University Senate objects to the decision of the Board dated May 10, 2014. The Senate objects to the fact that the Board of Trustees did not respond to the University Senate vote (76 to 1) regarding tenure and promotion (April 2014), but instead relied on a draft of a committee report that was not voted on by the Senate. This issue strikes at the core of faculty professional self-governance.

The Senate respectfully requests that the Board of Trustees reconsider their decision and/or explain their actions.

The motion was seconded. Prof. Carter gave some background to the motion, explaining that it addressed the matter of Board of Trustee action based on a report from an ad hoc committee, that was not its final report, that it needed more work before being accepted by the Senate.

In the discussion, a member emphasized the unfinished nature of the ad hoc committee's report, pointing out that the Board's relying on it for its decision was ludicrous. A member rose to propose an amendment adding the sentence: "The Senate reminds the administration and the trustees that they cannot build a great university without the enthusiastic support of current and future faculty." at the end of the first paragraph. The motion was seconded, and carried. The vote on the amended motion was approved.

The Chairman recognized Prof. Crystal Bartolovich, who made a motion, as follows:

While respecting the authority of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees, the Syracuse University Senate objects to the decision of the Board of Trustees dated 5/10/14. This issue strikes at the core of faculty professional self-governance.

The Senate objects to the specification in item 4 (administrative involvement in promotion to professor), which shifts decision making on promotion to full professor from the faculty to the administration (Vice Chancellor and Chancellor), before being submitted to the Board of Trustees.

The Senate respectfully requests that the Board of Trustees reconsider their decision and/or explain their actions.

In the discussion, a senator rose to amend the motion by adding the same sentence "The Senate reminds the administration and the trustees that they cannot build a great university without the enthusiastic support of current and future faculty." at the end of the first paragraph. The motion to amend carried, and the amended motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Teresa Gilman
University Senate Recorder